

Royal Proclamations and Executive Orders

*By the New Jersey
Committee of Safety*

When patriots resisted the British at Lexington back in '75 King George issued a proclamation denouncing "his" American "subjects" as "rebels". We justly resented that insulting and arbitrary edict that denied us our liberty. And so we drove out George and his minions and thereby freed ourselves forever from kings and tyrannical proclamations.

Or so we thought. But human nature and its devices never change. Men will always seek to trample and deny the rights of others. Today presidential executive orders are being used for the same purpose as the detested royal proclamations.

Take Executive Order 12986 for example. Out of the blue on Jan. 18, 1996, the president proclaimed: "I hereby extend to the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources the privileges and immunities that provide or pertain to immunity from suit." But who is King George-, sorry, the president, to deny Americans the right to sue the I.U.C.N. if it violates our rights or damages us in some way? And just what is the I.U.C.N.'s agenda? By UN Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 the United Nations granted "consultative" status to the I.U.C.N.1, whose membership consists of 53 international non-government organizations, 550 national NGOs, 100 government agencies and 68 sovereign

nations.² It consults with six different UN organizations.³ Just what do the Switzerland-based I.U.C.N. and its 771 far flung members have up their collective sleeves that requires immunity from lawsuits?

When there is E.O. 13083, misleadingly titled "Federalism". Issued May 14, 1998 this edict is a brazen attempt by executive departments and agencies to supplant with Federal power the power of the people, the states and local governments. It will actually destroy federalism, which is the balance between the Federal government and the states.

Sec. 2(d) proclaims, "The people of the States are at liberty, subject only to the limitations in the Constitution itself or in Federal law, to define the moral, political and legal character of their lives." But the Constitution limits Federal power, not the people.

The people, through the States, granted the Federal government specific duties — but defining the "character of their lives" is not one of them. Otherwise — considering there are 12 departments in the executive branch and one department alone, the Department of Agriculture, has 28 agencies that write rules and regulations — a whole lot more "defining" than is going on would go on.

There should be strict adherence to constitutional principles. Agencies should closely examine the constitutional and statutory authority supporting any federal action that would limit the policy making discretion of the States and local governments,

and should carefully assess the necessity for such action." (Sec. 3(a)) Again, "King" Clinton and federal agencies have no authority to limit the "policy making discretion" of State and local governments. In fact the Constitution states the opposite — "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." (Tenth amendment) Of course unaccountable Federal departments and agencies — most of which are not authorized by the Constitution (though they give lip service to "strict adherence" to its principles) — proclaim that "necessity" overrides constitutions, statutes and ordinances.

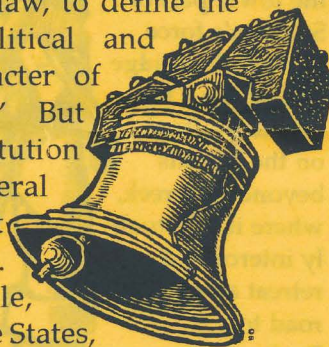
There's a lot more arrogance in E.O. 13083, including Sec. 7(a) which, like E.O. 12986, prevents damaged parties from bringing suit. But these E.O.s are just two of thousands. Friends, we rid ourselves of old King George's proclamations, and by having Congress override their modern equivalent, we can again regain our liberty.

The New Jersey Committee of Safety was co-founded by the Association Seeking to Preserve Individual Rights for Everyone (ASPIRE) and the New Jersey Militia. The Committee can be reached c/o:

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The Trenton Crier

By Leonard Lundin,
Staff Reporter

On December 26, 1776, dawn in Trenton came in the midst of a driving storm of snow and rain which had been raging nearly all night. After having passed a festive evening on December 25, the jovial Hessian commander, Colonel Rall, it seemed, was intending to begin the following day with the not unaccustomed luxury of a long morning sleep.

His chief subordinate, Major von Dechow was apparently in a similarly relaxed holiday mood. Even the Jager post stationed at General Dickinson's house some distance from the village up the river road caught the pleasant infection of the season and confined its patrolling to a detachment of three men. After all, it was a holiday; and in such blustering weather what was there to fear from the half-naked Continentals huddling beyond the swirling Delaware and its drifting cakes of ice?

The Christmas atmosphere had been jarred when a picket of sixteen men stationed just outside the town on the Pennington road was fired upon by a wandering party of Americans. The attackers, however, withdrew quickly into the woods, leaving no trace, and Rall dismissed the affair as of no importance.

Meanwhile, throughout that long, cold night, Glover's regiment of Marblehead fishermen had battled the swift current of the Delaware, the floating cakes of ice, the high wind and the driving snow to transport Washington's force — perhaps 2400 strong — with its horses and artillery from Pennsylvania to New Jersey. Chilled and weary, but grimly determined, the Americans had begun their advance from McConkey's Ferry at about four o'clock in the morning; and at eight o'clock, marching in two columns along the river road and the

Pennington road, they arrived at the Hessian outposts.

The men who had passed so disagreeable a night were in no mood for trifling. Fiercely they swept back into the town the little picket and two other outlying detachments stationed nearby. Before they had time to organize any resistance, the American forces deployed across the road leading to Princeton and New Brunswick, and extending themselves to the bank of Assanpink Creek, cut off retreat to the northward. At almost the same time, the column on the river road, commanded by General Sullivan, bore down upon the Jager outpost, and drove this detachment back to Trenton and across the one

bridge spanning Assanpink Creek at the southern end of the village. After a sharp fight in the town, part of Sullivan's force crossed the bridge and set up a battery of artillery on the heights beyond the creek, where it effectually intercepted any retreat along the road to Burlington.

Meanwhile the Hessians in the town were thrown into the greatest confusion. Rall attempted to assemble his troops, but a battery of American artillery which had been placed at the northern end of the village began to rake the two principal streets. Rall's men, demoralized by the strain of the recent weeks and by the suddenness of the assault, responded but half heartedly; and the Americans, in a fierce charge, captured the only two Hessian cannon which had been brought into play and forced the enemy out of the village to the low grounds bordering Assanpink Creek.

From this point the Hessians made a desperate counter-attack upon the village; but the American

marksmen, now sheltered in houses and behind fences, shot through the flying snow and rain and the drifting smoke of battle with deadly effect. Rall ordered his men to retreat to an orchard near the creek; but before this movement was completed he fell from his horse, mortally wounded.

With their commander removed from action and their force nearly encircled, the von Lossberg and Rall regiments had no choice but to surrender. At almost the same time the third regiment, that of Knyphausen, which had been fighting at the southern end of the village, was captured while making a vain attempt to escape across the Assanpink. The short battle was over, and one of the most important British outposts had fallen with but feeble resistance into the hands of the despised Americans.

More than 900 Hessians, officers and men, were made prisoners either at the surrender or in a later search of the village; and 106 had been killed or wounded in the engagement. Only about 400 of the garrison escaped capture. In contrast, the losses of the Americans, according to Washington, were "very inconsiderable, not more than a private or two killed" and a few men wounded. The cost of their victory did not become apparent until after the chilled and exhausted troops had returned to the Pennsylvania shore; on the next day, it is said, over a thousand of them were reported unfit for duty.

Prior to the battle, a Hessian officer wrote that his men "were so frightened when they were to patrol that hardly any of them were willing to venture it without infantry, for they never went out patrolling without being fired upon, or having one wounded or even shot dead."

Among the many factors which entered into Washington's victory of December 26, not the least important was the constant harrying tactics of the militia and irregulars, which succeeded in unnerving Rall's soldiers.

